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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/695,818	10/30/2003	King Biu Mak	016660-182	7175

21839 7590 07/22/2005

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EXAMINER

GALL, LLOYD A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3676

DATE MAILED: 07/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/695,818

Applicant(s)

MAK ET AL.

Examiner

Lloyd A. Gall

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-12 and 21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 13-20, 22 and 23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's election of the species of figs. 6, 7A and 7B in the reply filed on July 7, 2005 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claims 8-12 and 21 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on July 7, 2005. Applicants should also note that claims 11 and 12 also are regarded by the examiner as not reading on the elected figures. Claims 11 and 12 appear to correspond with the embodiment of figure 10.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 5, line 23, "118" should be replaced with -108-. On page 10, line 18, it is not clear where two locks are present in figs. 10 to 11B.

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: the written description must provide support for what is regarded as the "indicator" of claims 13 and 14.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 1-7, 13-20, 22 and 23 are objected to because of the following informalities: The scope of all of the claims is not clear. For example, claim 1 claims only a lock, and the remainder of the claim appears to set forth specifics of the male and

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female fastener members. It is not clear if claim 1 is positively, or only inferentially claiming the specifics of the male and female members. See claims 15-20, 22 and 23 also, as to what structure is being positively or inferentially claimed. In line 2 of claims 2 and 3, there is no antecedent basis for "said second member". In claim 14, if the indicator is referring to element(s) 128 or 156 in elected figure 6, it is not clear in what sense it is movable relative to a body of the lock. In claim 16, lines 5-6, "said second position marker is adjacent to said pre-determined position" is not clear, since both markers 128 and 156 in fig. 6 do not appear to be movable. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 1 is currently assumed to be positively claiming only a lock, and claim 15 is assumed to be claiming a female member and a lock, and claim 22 is assumed to be claiming a male member, a female member, and a lock.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-7, 13-20, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ling (368).

Ling teaches plural locks 4, a male member as seen in fig. 4, a female member 1 to hold the locks 4, movable arm members 21, 22 on the male member which either engage the circular plate portion 32 of the locks, or are engaged in a recess 321 of the locks to allow the arms 21, 22 to release the male member from the female member.

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The longitudinal axis of the locks are perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the female member 1, and each lock 4 has an axis which is both parallel to and which coincides with the axis of the other lock 4. The female member also includes two markers which define an indicator, one marker being the numerals on the outer periphery of the locks 4, and the other indicator being defined by either the window in the female member 1 which receives the locks 4, or the spring 17.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The remaining prior art cited also teaches male and female members and locks therefor.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lloyd A. Gall whose telephone number is 571-272-7056. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.

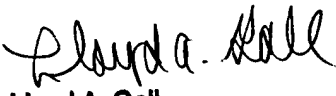
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571-272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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July 19, 2005


Lloyd A. Gall
Primary Examiner